

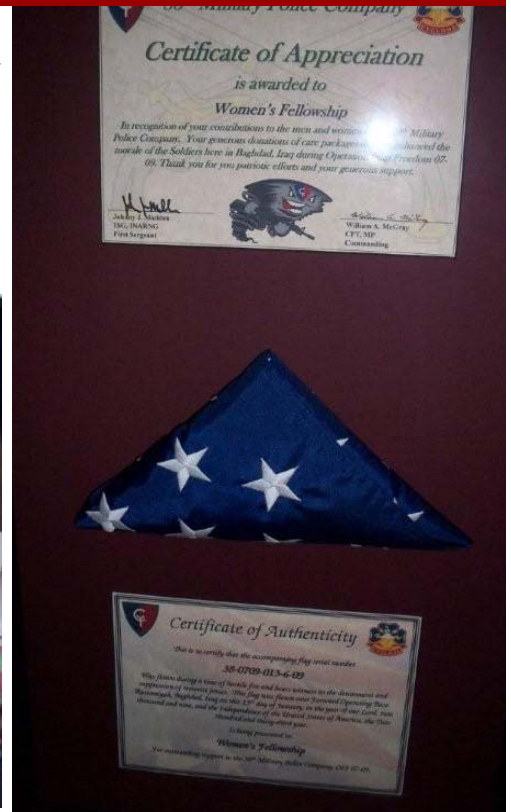
DECEMBER
2009

HICKORY GROVE CHURCH

~Merry Christmas~

Hickory Switch

On Sunday, November 15th, Jo White presented the Women's Fellowship with a Certificate of Appreciation and an American flag that had flown over Bagdad, Iraq where her son, Brian Clevenger, was serving this time last year. Brian is a Sergeant in the Military Police branch of the National Guard. He brought the flag back with him and had it mounted in a beautiful enclosed case to be displayed at the Church. This was his way of showing appreciation for the people who sent cards, care packages and prayers up for him and his fellow men and women in the military.



Operation Christmas Child

We had 163 boxes for the Operation Christmas Child project.

Thanks to everyone who donated money, gifts, and time to make this a successful project.



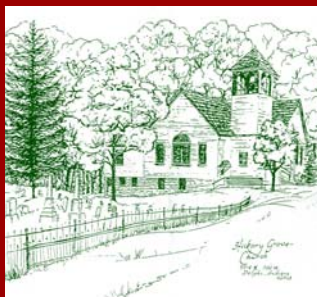
Upcoming Events

- December 4th—**Dreamers Class** at Pastor Ken and Trina's
- December 5th—**Red Kettle Bell Ringing**
- December 9th—**11:30 Golden Ager's** at the home of Bud and Arleen Stangle
- December 12th—**Emmaus Christmas Party**
Christmas program practice
Youth Christmas Party
- December 13th—**Youth/Children's Christmas Program**
- December 19th—**3:00 All Church Christmas Caroling w/Supper** at Helen Hanna's afterwards
- December 24th—**10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service**

"Did you know..."

Our youth will provide the worship service on Dec. 13th with their Christmas program.

The morning message will be followed by cookies and punch to celebrate the birth of Christ.



Check out our website at www.hickorygrove.info

Pastor's Pen

The Christmas Season is upon us. By now you have made it through Thanksgiving and are starting to think toward Christmas. So much to do in such a little time. The parties you will attend, or the ones you are hosting. There are gifts to buy, cards to send and food to fix. Did you ever get to the place where you realize you forgot something? Then you can't imagine that you did. It just happened to me. I got an email from Amy that she needed my letter for the Hickory Switch. Believe it or not, last week I sat in my office trying to think of what I needed to get done for Sunday. I knew that Thanksgiving would throw off my little in-my-brain schedule. After calling Amy to apologize for being so late, I began to ponder how I could have forgotten. It came as a big reminder to me that if we are not careful, we can get so caught up in the little things that we can miss the big things.

How often does Christmas pass and we realize that we didn't see certain old friends? Maybe you said: "This year we were going to take time to"...well, maybe next year. "Make a note so that next year we don't forget to....oh well, we'll forget where the note is by next year". I am sure that you can say: "Been there, done that." The reality is that a year from now, no one will remember that you forgot to put the cranberries on the table for dinner. If you admit to someone that you left out your favorite ingredient your cookies, they probably didn't even notice (Actually they are "your" favorites, others might not even like them). You took so much time making sure everything was just in it's right place for the gathering, yet you are the only one that knew it was in just the right place. No one but you can say: "Wow! Everything was in just the right place." The Message is, don't fret the small stuff. Jesus described it as straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel.

What we find is that people are who matters. The older we get, the more we realize that old friends and new friends are more important than old Christmas lights or new recipes. Why not make a Christmas memory that you, or someone else, will never forget? Do you have a relative or old friend that you haven't seen in a long time? Why not sit down and mark your calendar to go and see them? Drop everything you are doing and call someone you haven't seen for a long time that you just thought about. Load up the kids and do something that you have never done before. Think back in your memories. You probably don't remember what someone got you for Christmas a few years ago. But you will remember that special guest that just dropped by to tell you they loved you. It didn't matter that they didn't bring a gift; they were the gift.

"The angel said unto then: Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy." (Lk 2:10). Be an angel my friend; go to someone with good tidings of great joy. Spend time with them, love on them. The heavenly host said: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men." (Lk 2: 14). This is the time for peace and joy and goodwill and spreading good news. Let us not get so caught up in the small stuff that we miss the big stuff. What is the big stuff? People!

Merry Christmas,

Pastor Ken

Construction Continues!



The windows are in place upstairs and the frame work continues in the basement! God is good!

Photo provided by Jo White



December 2009

Hickory Grove Church

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
30	31	1	2	3	4	5
			7:00 Women's Fellowship @ Vicki Criswell's	Sara McManus Ann Hanna	Jo Dill Jim Fouts Dreamer's Class Christmas Dinner w/Pastor Ken & Trina	Doug Spitzer Red Kettle Ringing
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
Gloria Wharff	Ruby Kellogg		11:30 Golden Ager's at the home of Bud and Arleen Stangle			Emmaus Christmas Party Christmas program practice Youth Christmas Party
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
Danielle Kelly Jendy Hanna Youth/Children's Christmas Program	Jennifer Crowel	Kenny & Judy Miller	Megan Barrett	Alix Davis Jake Davis		3:00 All Church Christmas Caroling w/Supper at Helen Hanna's afterwards
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Carolyn Clothier				Gary Lantz Paul & Pat Cotner 10:00 PM Christmas Eve Service	 Christmas Day	
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
Chuck & Sara McManus		Barry & Charlotte Williams		Jessie O'Farrell	 New Year's Day	Nick Spitzer
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Jeremy Lantz		Dieter Hantschel	Rick Alexander 7:00 Women's Fellowship			Shannon Kelly

9714 N 700 W
Delphi, IN 46923

Phone:
574-965-2731
Ken Smith, Pastor

Check out our website at www.hickorygrove.info

Women's Fellowship-September '09

~Submitted by Vicki Criswell

Women's FELLOWSHIP met at the home of Helen Hanna's on November 4, 2009.

A delicious Thanksgiving meal was enjoyed by all.

Cards were passed to be signed.

Roll Call was answered with your favorite casserole.

Helen Hanna gave devotions from **God Is Faithful** by Sheila Wash.

A thank you note was read from Janet Hildreth for having her as our speaker and also a thank you note for the items

for the women & children on the reservation.

Secretary and Treasure reports were read and approved.

Several ladies shared about books they have read.

The annual Bazaar & Luncheon was once again a success. Thank you to every one who made this event happen. Get started on your crafts now for next years Bazaar!

Thank Offering was taken up and Shannon Kelly prayed over it. The Thank Offering will be sent to Women - To Women with the White County

Food Pantry.

We will be going to Emmaus Mission of December 12, 2009 to serve a meal and to play bingo.

We are to think about decorating a table for the Mother~Daughter~Friend Banquet to be held on May 8, 2010.

Come FELLOWHIP with us at Vicki Criswell's on Dec. 2, 2009 at 7:00. Each lady is to bring 2 dozen cookies for refreshment and cookie exchange. You not only get to sample the cookies but you will be also be taking a plate full home to enjoy for the holidays.

Golden Agers

~Submitted by Jo White

The Golden Agers met at USA Family Restaurant on Wednesday, November 11th.

There were 15 in attendance. Ruth Crawn gave the blessing before the meal.

Arleen Stangle gave devotions. She read, Seasons of the Heart and a poem, T'was the Night Before Thanksgiving.

Dieter Hantschel read Remembrance of Veterans of Jeanie Gift of Love.

The December meeting will be held on the 9th at Bud and Arleen Stangle's home. Guests are asked to bring a salad or vegetable dish. For their Christmas exchange, women are asked to bring a gift for a women and the men a gift for another man (\$5 limit).

**"LIFE WITHOUT GOD IS
LIKE AN
UNSHARPENED
PENCIL - IT HAS NO
POINT."**

Just think,

You're here not by chance,
but by God's choosing.

His hand formed you
and made you the person
you are.

He compares you to no
one else—
you are one of a kind.

You lack nothing
that His grace can't give
you.

He has allowed you to be
here at this time in
history,
To fulfill His special
Purpose for this
Generation.

~Roy Lessin

The 12 Days of Christmas



Many people enjoy the holidays because it is a time to celebrated with family and friends. However, some people find the holidays to be lonely especially if they are separated from family or have outlived their family and friends. Below are suggestions to avoid loneliness based on the well known "The Twelve Days of Christmas".

🌸 On the first day...get yourself a treat

🌸 On the second day...call a treasured friend.

🌸 On the third day...Forgive yourself a fault.

🌸 On the Fourth day...Take a walk in the sun.

🌸 On the fifth day...Call five long-lost

friends and tell how you appreciate them.

🌸 On the sixth day...Volunteer a little bit.

🌸 On the seventh day...watched a best loved film.

🌸 On the eighth day...listen to your favorite music.

🌸 On the ninth day...Cook your best dish and invite a friend

🌸 On the tenth day...write a letter or poem, paint a picture, or sing a song.

🌸 On the eleventh day...buy a frivolous magazine and read it cover to cover.

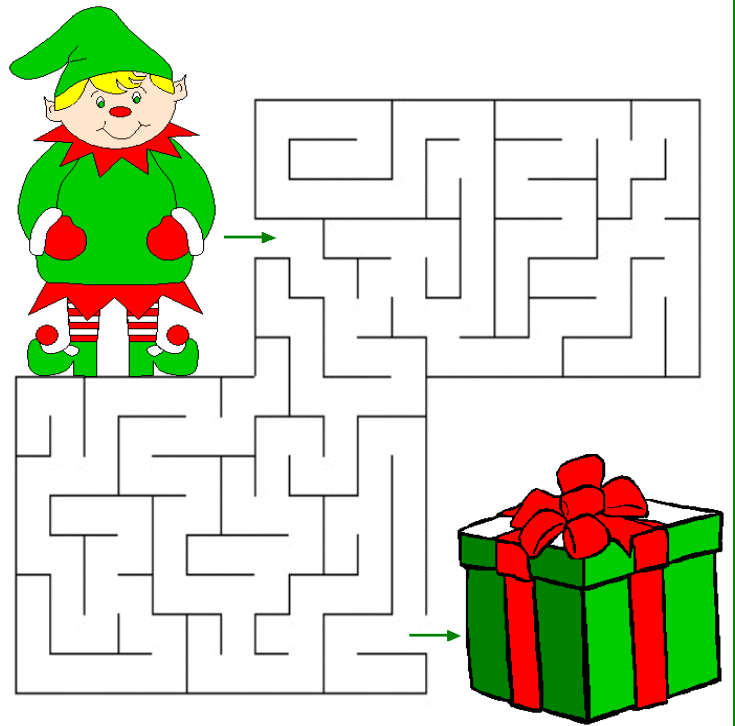
🌸 On the twelfth day...write five things you are grateful for.





Christmas Maze

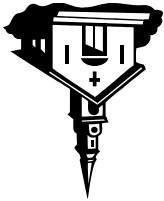
Help Jo Jo the elf find the missing Christmas present!



**BURNETTSVILLE
COMMUNITY DAY
FOR THE
HAITI MISSION TEAM**



The friendly church at the
side of the road!



HICKORY GROVE CHURCH
9714 N 700 W
Delphi, IN 46923
Phone: 574-965-2731
Ken Smith, Pastor



Cards and Visits

People who may appreciate your cards, prayers and visits:

Ralph and Dee Davis
306 S Illinois St.
Monticello, IN 47960
574-583-7234

Mary Rishel
Carroll Manor
640 W 100 N
Delphi, IN 46923
(Marlene Joseph's mother)

Tad Walkup
Indiana Veterans Home
3851 North River Road
MacArthur 3-AB-Room 302
West Lafayette, IN 47906

James Bailey
Whispering Pines, 410
Tioga Road, Room D-3
Monticello, In 47960
(Amy Spitzer and Brenda Johns grandfather)

Our College Students
Tammy Veach
Box 895
200 Seminary Drive
Winona Lake, IN 46509

Sam Lashbrook
Godare Hall, Rm 343
1401 Park Street
Vincennes, IN 47591

Have something you want to share...

If you have any minutes to meetings, class party info or anything you think the rest of us might enjoy hearing about, please get it to Amy or Brenda.

We can be reached at:

Amy Spitzer
605 W Hanawalt Rd
Monticello, IN 47960
alspitzer@ffni.com

Brenda Johns
9457 W 650 N
Delphi, IN 46923
574-965-2795
johns4@ytci.com

In your Moment of Need...



In your moment of need please feel free to call:

Pastor Ken Smith
Phone: 574-826-4307
Pager: 574-722-0173

Or one of our Deacons:
Bryan Felz 574-965-2737
Ron Felz 574-965-4239
Jesse Kelly 765-564-6800
Alan Sickler 574-943-3236
Judy Miller 574-943-3447
Teresa Alexander 965-4573

Sundays in Review...

Did you miss a Sunday recently? No problem, you can now borrow a taped copy of the Sunday service! Copies are made every Sunday to be distributed to Shut-ins or those who were absent for whatever reason. Just contact anyone from the church, and they can get you a copy!

